



# 2006 Water Quality Report

## Columbia County Water Utility

This report includes information collected from  
January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006



### Health Facts

For health reasons, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prescribed regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

### Providing Confidence to our Consumers

Columbia County is one of the most desirable and, therefore, fastest growing counties in the state. Our Water Utility constantly strives to stay ahead of the progress and with recent expansions at our facilities, we are prepared to meet the needs of the county. This report is written to give our customers the assurance that their drinking water is of the highest quality. We are proud to let our residents and businesses know that we have met or exceeded all standards set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Topics covered in this report include source water information, numerical values of detected finished water quality parameters, term definitions, and health facts.



### Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:

- Microbial contaminants (e.g., viruses and bacteria) that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wild-life;
- Inorganic contaminants (e.g., salts and metals) which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm run-off, industrial or domestic waste discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- Pesticides and herbicides which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture,
- urban stormwater run-off, and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater run-off, and septic systems; and
- Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



### Water Sources

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

### Source Water Assessment

Columbia County Water Utility completed a Source Water Assessment study in April 2002. This assessment identifies potential pollutant sources that could contaminate the water supply. In the ranking of High, Medium, and Low for potential pollutants, our water supply was ranked Low at both the Jim Blanchard Water Treatment Plant and the Clarks Hill Water Treatment Plant. This assessment is available to the public. If you would like to review or purchase a copy, please call (706) 863-6928 during normal business hours.

### Our Drinking Water Sources

Columbia County transfers and treats up to 31,000,000 gallons a day of surface water from the Savannah River to our Jim Blanchard Sr. Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on Point Comfort Road. Columbia County is also able to transfer and treat an additional 8,000,000 gallons of surface water from the Clarks Hill Reservoir to the Clark Hill WTP on Highway 221.

With recent expansions at the Jim Blanchard Sr. WTP, Columbia County is able to meet the needs of our growing community by being able to produce a total of 39,000,000 gallons a day of potable drinking water.

## Columbia County Water Utility Quality Data for 2006

Regulated Inorganic Substances Detected in Treated Water Entering Distribution System						
Substance (Units)	Maximum Level Allowed (MCL)	Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)	Amount Detected in CCWU	Range Detected in CCWU	Sample Date	Did CCWU Meet Requirements
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.93	0.86 - 1.00	2006	Yes
Nitrate (ppm)	10	10	nd	nd	2006	Yes
Turbidity (ntu)	TT	n/a	0.18	n/a	2006	Yes
Turbidity (percent)	TT=percentage of samples < 0.3ntu	n/a	100%	n/a	2006	Yes
Regulated Inorganic Substances Detected in Treated Water at Tap						
Substance (Units)	Action Level Allowed (AL)	Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)	90th Percentile in CCWU	Number of sites above AL	Previous Sample Date	Did CCWU Meet Requirements
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.14	0	2004	Yes
Lead (ppb)	1.5	0	2.5	0	2004	Yes
Regulated Organic Substances Detected in Treated Water at Tap						
Substance (Units)	Max Yearly Average Allowed (MCL)	Maximum Level Goal (MCLG)	Max Quarterly Average Detected in CCWU	Annual Range Detected in CCWU	Sample Date	Did CCWU Meet Requirements
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	n/a	56	34.7 - 81.6	2006	Yes
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	n/a	29	14.6 - 40.5	2006	Yes
Substance (Units)	Maximum Residual Level Allowed (MRDL)	Maximum Level Goal (MRDLG)	Yearly Average Detected in CCWU	Range Detected in CCWU	Sample Date	Did CCWU Meet Requirements
Chlorine (ppm)	4	4	1.1	0.2 - 1.8	2006	Yes
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT	n/a	1.4	1.0 - 2.0	2006	Yes
Regulated Bacteriological Sampling						
Substance (Units)	Number of Required Samples Collected Per Month	Maximum Level Allowed (MCL)	Number of Violations	Highest Monthly Percent	Sample Date	Did CCWU Meet Requirements
Total Coliforms (P/A)	80	5 000%	0	1.25%	2006	Yes
E-Coli (P/A)	80	0	0	0	2006	Yes
For Your Information						
Substance	Range Detected in CCWU					
Sodium	9.3ppm - 15ppm					
Alkalinity	14ppm - 20ppm					
Hardness	1 - 25ppm (Very Soft)					
pH	6.8 - 8.5					

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For more information about the CCWU (ID # 0730000), please contact the Water Laboratory Manager Rodney Silvey at (706) 868-3460 or the Water Treatment Manager John Maldonado at (706) 860-2587. The Public Works Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Evans Government Center Auditorium in Building A on 630 Ronald Reagan Drive.

Each year the Georgia Association of Water Professionals gives awards to deserving Water Utilities that go through the whole year without violating regulations set by the USEPA and Georgia EPD. Awards presented are the Gold Award, which is given to facilities each year that meet requirements. The Platinum award is given to those facilities which have gone five years or longer without a single violation. We are proud to announce to our customers that both the Jim Blanchard Sr. and the Clark Hill Water Treatment Facilities have been awarded the Platinum award for 2006. Congratulations to the men and women who have worked hard over the past years to earn such an award!

### Definitions

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** Maximum disinfectant residual allowed in the distribution system.

**Not Detected (nd):** The amount of a material in a sample was not detected during analytical testing.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Parts per Billion (ppb):** One part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.

**Parts per Million (ppm):** One part per million is equivalent to one penny in ten thousand dollars..... (1 ppm = 1 mg/L).